

## Parent Information

### Sex and Relationships education at Cookridge Primary School

**Our children are growing up in the most rapidly changing period in our history.** This creates complex challenges and new opportunities. PSHE education deals with the real life issues affecting our children, families and communities. It is concerned with the social, health and economic realities of their lives, experiences and attitudes. PSHE education helps all children and young people – the highest achievers as well as the vulnerable and excluded – to achieve their fullest potential.



As of September 2020, The Department for Education have made Relationships education compulsory in primary schools. The content covers everything that primary schools should teach about relationships and health, including puberty. The national curriculum for science also includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts, the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty) and reproduction in some plants and animals. Parents are unable to withdraw their child from this area of the curriculum.

Cookridge Primary School also teaches Sex and Relationships education which covers additional content to meet the needs of our pupils. Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from this area of the curriculum as this is not statutory. Before you make the decision whether to withdraw your child, please consider the following information:

- All the other children in your child's class will have been taught this information and may well talk to your child about it, perhaps in the playground and potentially mislead them or confuse them as a result. It may prove far better to allow experienced and sensitive teaching staff to teach your child in a progressive, developmental way that is grounded in research.
- The SRE in PSHE Education will echo this and will concentrate on building self-esteem and teaching children how to enjoy healthy, appropriate relationships, improve self-esteem and self-confidence, and make healthy, informed choices. When viewed this way, it is hoped that SRE won't be seen as contentious or a cause for concern, but rather as helpful.
- Talk to your child's teacher, the head teacher, or the teacher in charge of PSHE Education. Often, when parents and carers find out what is in the Sex Education curriculum, their fears are allayed as they can appreciate it is in the best interests of their child's lifelong learning.

If you would like more information regarding what areas are covered in your child's Relationships, Health and well being and Sex Education topic, then please **refer to our Relationships and Sex education policy** on our website which can be found on the PSHE Page, as well as some lesson examples. If you have any other questions or concerns then please feel free to get in contact with your child's class teacher.

